

Jan 1 1945

379-INK(313)-0.3 (308791) own-RATS- 313th LNK Regt.

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AUTHORITY

Y 15 NARA DATE: 11/27

313 Inf Regt

OPERATIONS #9

1 JANUARY **** 1 MARCH

19451 JANUARY

NEW YEARS EVE AND THE NEW YEAR, 1945, ARRIVED WITHOUT INCIDENT IN THE 7TH ARMY SECTOR. NO ACTIVITY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE USUAL EXCHANGE OF ARTILLERY FIRES WAS NOTED PRIOR TO, AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER MIDNIGHT. NOR WERE THERE CELEBRATIONS FOR THE FIGHTING SOLDIER ON THE LINES AS THE NEW YEAR ARRIVED. NOT, AT LEAST, FOR MEMBERS OF THE 313TH INFANTRY. A STERN WARNING HAD COME DOWN FROM CORPS AND DIVISION HEADQUARTERS STATING THAT ALL TROOPS WERE TO REMAIN ON THE ALERT; THAT ADVANCE G-2 INFORMATION INDICATED THE HUN MIGHT WELL CHOOSE THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW YEAR TO LAUNCH AN ALL OUT COUNTER ATTACK. WITH THIS IN MIND THE TROOPS STAYED AT THEIR POSTS IN THE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED, AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS.

AND DEVELOPMENTS CAME. EARLY IN THE MORNING OF 1 JANUARY, 1945, THE GERMANS ATTACKED IN FORCE, PENETRATING 7TH ARMY POSITIONS IN THE XV CORPS FRONT TO THE LEFT OF THE VI CORPS FRONT. IT WAS A MAJOR ATTACK, AND THE NEWS CONCERNING IT'S SCOPE AND INTENSITY SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE. HOUR BY HOUR, MORE AND MORE INFORMATION ARRIVED AT REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS.

IT WAS AT 0430 HOURS THAT THE 313TH INFANTRY RECEIVED IT'S FIRST ORDERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEWLY LAUNCHED ENEMY ATTACK. THE ENTIRE REGIMENT WAS ALERTED FOR POSSIBLE MOVEMENT AT ANY TIME, AND THE 1ST BATTALION, 313TH, WAS ORDERED TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY BY MOTOR TO THE VICINITY OF BITCHE, TO ASSIST IN HALTING THE BREAKTHROUGH AT THAT POINT. THE INITIAL ASSEMBLY AREA WAS DESIGNATED AS THE TOWN OF MORSBRUNN, LOCATED AT COORDINATES 007-335. THE ADVANCE PARTY AND LIAISON WERE ORDERED TO REPORT TO VI CORPS HEADQUARTERS (COORD 009-342) FOR IMMEDIATE INSTRUCTIONS. FURTHER ORDERS FROM DIVISION DIRECTED THE REGIMENT, LESS 3RD BATTALION, WITH ATTACHED TANKS, TD'S AND ASSULT GUNS TO ALSO MOVE TO MORSBRUNN IMMEDIATELY. MEANTIME, THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER HAD BEEN ORDERED TO CORPS HEADQUARTERS FOR FULL INFORMATION REGARDING THE SITUATION.

THE 3RD BATTALION REMAINED AT IT'S PRESENT DEFENSIVE POSITIONS INITIALLY, BUT LATER, AT 2200, THE BATTALION WAS ORDERED TO MOVE TO THE VICINITY OF NIEWEILLER UPON RELIEF BY THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH; THUS PASSING FROM THE CONTROL OF THE 313TH INFANTRY FOR AN UNDETERMINED PERIOD OF TIME.

A SCREENING FORCE WAS LEFT ON THE MLR UNTIL EARLY MORNING WHEN IT WAS RELIEVED BY ATTACHED TANKS AND TD'S. THE 1ST BATTALION STARTED MOVING AT 1115; 2ND BATTALION AT 1515. REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS CLOSED IT'S CP IN OBERSEECHACH AT 1540.

ENROUTE TO MORSBRUNN ORDERS AT CORPS TO THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER AND LIAISON OFFICERS CHANGED PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EXTENT THAT THE 1ST BATTALION WAS TO PROCEED TO REIPERTSWILLER, RATHER THAN TO IT'S INITIALLY ASSIGNED AREA. THE 1ST BATTALION CLOSED.....

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FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY, 1945 TO 15 FEBRUARY, 1945, INCLUSIVE.

OPERATIONS #9

1945

1 FEBRUARY ** 15 FEBRUARY

THE FOLLOWING COMPRISES A DAILY LOG ACCOUNT OF THE COMBAT ACTIVITIES OF THE 313TH INFANTRY, COVERING THE PERIOD OF OPERATIONS #9, 1 JANUARY TO 31 JANUARY, INCLUSIVE. EVENTS, ACCORDING TO DATES, TRANSPIRED AS FOLLOWS:

CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 12 Jan 46

1 JANUARY

NEW YEARS EVE AND THE NEW YEAR, 1945, ARRIVED WITHOUT INCIDENT IN THE 7TH ARMY SECTOR. NO ACTIVITY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE USUAL EXCHANGE OF ARTILLERY FIRES WAS NOTED PRIOR TO, AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER MIDNIGHT. NOR WERE THERE CELEBRATIONS FOR THE FIGHTING SOLDIER ON THE LINES AS THE NEW YEAR ARRIVED. NOT, AT LEAST, FOR MEMBERS OF THE 313TH INFANTRY. A STERN WARNING HAD COME DOWN FROM CORPS AND DIVISION HEADQUARTERS, STATING THAT ALL TROOPS WERE TO REMAIN ON THE ALERT; THAT ADVANCE G-2 INFORMATION INDICATED THE HUN MIGHT WELL CHOOSE THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW YEAR TO LAUNCH AN ALL OUT COUNTER-ATTACK. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE TROOPS STAYED AT THEIR POSTS IN THE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED, AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS.

AND DEVELOPMENTS CAME. EARLY IN THE MORNING OF 1 JANUARY, 1945, THE GERMANS ATTACKED IN FORCE, PENETRATING 7TH ARMY POSITIONS IN THE XV CORPS FRONT AND TO THE LEFT OF THE VI CORPS FRONT. IT WAS A MAJOR ATTACK, AND THE NEWS CONCERNING IT'S SCOPE AND INTENSITY SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE. HOUR BY HOUR, MORE AND MORE INFORMATION ARRIVED AT REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS.

IT WAS AT 0430 HOURS THAT THE 313TH INFANTRY RECEIVED IT'S FIRST ORDERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEWLY LAUNCHED ENEMY ATTACK. THE ENTIRE REGIMENT WAS ALERTED FOR POSSIBLE MOVEMENT AT ANY TIME, AND THE 1ST BN, 313TH, WAS ORDERED TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY BY MOTOR TO THE VICINITY OF BITCHE, TO ASSIST IN HALTING THE BREAKTHROUGH AT THAT POINT. THE INITIAL ASSEMBLY AREA WAS DESIGNATED AS THE TOWN OF MORSBRUNN, LOCATED AT COORDINATES 007-335. THE ADVANCE PARTY AND LIAISON WERE ORDERED TO REPORT TO VI CORPS HEADQUARTERS (COORD 009-342) FOR IMMEDIATE INSTRUCTIONS. FURTHER ORDERS FROM DIVISION DIRECTED THE REGIMENT, ~~XXXX~~ LESS 3RD BN, WITH ATTACHED TANKS, ~~AND~~ TD'S AND ASSULT GUNS TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO MORSBRONN ALSO. MEANTIME, THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER HAD BEEN ORDERED TO CORPS HEADQUARTERS FOR FULL INFORMATION REGARDING THE SITUATION.

THE 3RD BN REMAINED AT IT'S PRESENT DEFENSIVE POSITIONS INITIALLY, BUT LATER, AT 2200, THE BATTALION WAS ORDERED TO MOVE TO THE VICINITY OF NIEWEILLER UPON RELIEF BY THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH, AND THUS PASSED FROM CONTROL OF THE 313TH INFANTRY FOR AN UNDETERMINED PERIOD OF TIME.

A SCREENING FORCE WAS LEFT ON THE MLR UNTIL EARLY MORNING UNTIL IT WAS RELIEVED BY ATTACHED TANKS AND TD'S. 1ST BN STARTED MOVING AT 1115; 2ND BATTALION AT 1515. REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS CLOSED IT'S CP IN OBERSEEBACH AT 1540.

ENROUTE TO MORSBRUNN ORDERS AT CORPS TO THE REGIMENTAL AND LIAISON OFFICERS CHANGED PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS INTENT THAT THE 1ST BN WAS TO PROCEED TO REIPERTSWILLER HAN TO IT'S INITIALLY ASSIGNED AREA. THE 1ST BN CLOS

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INTO AN AREA VICINITY REIPERTSWILLER AT 0222, 2 JANUARY. THE 2ND ~~BRITISH~~ BATTALION, IN REGIMENTAL RESERVE, MOVED INTO REICHSHOFFEN, THE CP OPENING THERE AT 1700. CANNON COMPANY AND 1 PLATOON REGIMENTAL AT COMPANY WAS ATTACHED TO THE FIRST BATTALION AT THAT HOUR AND MOVED WITH THE 1ST BATTALION VICINITY REIPERTSWILLER.

THE MOVES WERE MADE WITHOUT INCIDENT. THERE WAS LITTLE ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THE REGIMENTAL SECTOR DURING THE ENTIRE DAY. HARRASSING ARTILLERY FELL NEAR OBERSEEBACH IN THE MORNING. THE 3RD BATTALION CAPTURED TWO PRISONERS DURING THE DAY AND 2 ENEMY AIRCRAFT APPEARED OVER THE SECTOR CAUSING NO TROUBLE.

8 JANUARY

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRED ON 2 JANUARY, 1945, AND CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY WAS ENCOUNTERED IN ASCERTAINING THE ENEMY'S STRENGTH AND ACTIVITY. CHANGES, NECESSITATED BY THE ENEMY'S THRUST, WERE TAKING PLACE ALL ALONG THE FRONT, MAKING RAPID DECISIONS AND SUBSEQUENT ACTION IMPERATIVE. THE 1ST BATTALION, WHICH AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED HAD CLOSED INTO REIPERTSWILLER AT 0222, IMMEDIATELY SENT OUR RECONNAISSANCE PATROLS, AS DID THE 94TH RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON. THEIR MISSION WAS TO FEEL OUT ENEMY POSITIONS, AND DETERMINE, IF POSSIBLE, THE APPROXIMATE ENEMY STRENGTH. VALUABLE INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED, AND EARLY IN THE MORNING THE BATTALION MOVED NORTH OF REIPERTSWILLER TO CONTACT THE ENEMY. IN THE COURSE OF THIS MOVE THE BATTALION WAS COUNTER-ATTACKED AT 0930 HOURS ON THE HIGH GROUND JUST NORTH OF REIPERTSWILLER, WITH THE ENEMY EMPLOYING BOTH TANKS AND INFANTRY IN THE ATTACK. THEREAFTER INTENSIVE FIGHTING BEGAN. THE 2ND BATTALION MEANWHILE MOVED ON THE RIGHT AND BEYOND REIPERTSWILLER IN AN ATTEMPT TO ADJUST THEIR POSITIONS. THEY TOO RECEIVED A HEAVY COUNTER ATTACK WHICH RESULTED IN BOTH THE 1ST AND 2ND BATTALIONS BEING ORDERED ~~XXX~~ TO FALL BACK TO REIPERTSWILLER TO DEFEND AND HOLD THE TOWN. IN THE COURSE OF THIS MOVE ENEMY TANKS AND INFANTRY ACCOMPLISHED A SUDDEN THRUST WHICH CUT OFF OUR "A" AND "C" COMPANIES IN THE LITTLE TOWN OF WILDENGUTH. THE 2ND BATTALION AND THE REMAINDER OF THE 1ST BATTALION CONTINUED THE PLANNED WITHDRAWAL, FALLING BACK AROUND REIPERTSWILLER TO REPULSE ENEMY ATTACKS AGAINST THE TOWN IN STIFF FIGHTING. THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH INFANTRY, WAS THEN ATTACHED TO THE REGIMENT AND ORDERED TO MOVE TO AN ASSEMBLY AREA VICINITY OF PICARDIE. A PLATOON OF COMPANY "A", 83RD CHEMICAL BATTALION WAS ALSO ATTACHED TO US. THE FIGHTING AROUND REIPERTSWILLER CONTINUED UNABATED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY AND INTO THE NIGHT. OUR LINES HELD FIRM AND ALL ATTACKS WERE REPULSED. IT WAS NOT UNTIL AROUND MIDNIGHT THAT A LULL IN THE FIGHTING BECAME APPARENT AND THE BATTALIONS WERE ABLE TO BUTT UP FOR THE NIGHT.

MEANWHILE OTHER EVENTS HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE. THE REGIMENTAL CP, ON DIVISION ORDER, WAS MOVED FROM REICHSHOFFEN TO RETHBACH. OUR "A" AND "C" COMPANIES, STILL CUT OFF BY THE ENEMY THRUST, MAINTAINED CONTACT BY RADIO; THEIR ONLY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE REGIMENT.

ALTHOUGH FIGHTING WAS INTENSE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DAY, AND OUR UNITS HAD BEEN FORCED BACK BY THE SUDDEN THRUST OF THE ENEMY, THE DAY'S EVENTS BROUGHT MUCH VALUABLE

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INFORMATION AS TO THE ENEMY'S MOVEMENTS AND STRENGTH. 5 ENEMY TANKS WERE REPORTED AT COORDINATES 843-415; AN ENEMY ARMORED COLUMN AT 802-375. ANOTHER COLUMN, 1000 YARDS LONG, WAS SIGHTED TO THE NORTH OF REIPERTSWILLER MOVING SOUTH, WITH SP GUNS SUPPORTING THE LEADING ELEMENTS. DIVISION G-2 RELEASED INFORMATION THAT AT LEAST 2 ENEMY DIVISIONS WERE ATTACKING IN THE IMMEDIATE DIVISION SECTOR; 1 SS DIVISION AT COORDINATES 900-505 AND 1 PANZER DIVISION AT COORDINATES 965-535. IN THE ACTION DIRECTED AGAINST OUR 1ST AND 2ND BATTALIONS, IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE ENEMY HAD ~~KNOW~~ USED U.S. TANKS, MANNED BY GERMAN CREWS. THE TANKS HAD IN ALL PROBABILITY BEEN CAPTURED ON OTHER FRONTS, AND HAD BEEN PUT TO USE AGAINST OUR OWN FORCES IN THE THRUST AGAINST 7TH ARMY POSITIONS.

3 JANUARY

AT 0200 THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH INFANTRY, CLOSED INTO ITS ASSIGNED ASSEMBLY AREA VICINITY PICARDIE. ENEMY ACTIVITY CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND CONSIDERABLE SMALL ARMS FIRE, TANK AND FLACK FIRE HARRASSED THE 1ST AND 2ND BATTALION AREAS. INFILTRATION WAS ATTEMPTED BY THE ENEMY WITH LITTLE SUCCESS ALTHOUGH 2 GERMANS DID MANAGE TO REACH A POINT NEAR THE 2ND BATTALION CP, AND WERE KILLED.

CANNON COMPANY, IN GOING INTO POSITIONS TO THE WEST OF LICHTENBERG SOON DISCOVERED THEY WERE TOO CLOSE TO THE FRONT TO FIRE, NECESSITATING ANOTHER MOVE TO THE REAR TO COORDINATES 808-359.

ENEMY ARTILLERY INCREASED AT APPROXIMATELY 0400 AND REPORTS OF ENEMY CIRCULATING NEAR COMPANY CP'S INDICATED INFILTRATION WAS STILL BEING ATTEMPTED. INFORMATION FROM A CAPTURED MAP AND INTERROGATION OF PW'S INDICATED A POSSIBLE ENEMY ATTACK TO TAKE THE HIGH GROUND JUST NE OF REIPERTSWILLER. THE ENEMY ACTUALLY DID ATTACK AT 0730 AGAINST THE 2ND BATTALION BETWEEN E AND F COMPANIES, GAINING SOME SUCCESS.

THE 1ST BATTALION 314TH WAS ORDERED TO MOVE TO ASSIST THE 1ST BATTALION, 313TH INFANTRY, WHO WAS RECEIVING AN ATTACK FROM THE SOUTHWEST FROM LE KIRCHBERG HILL. TANKS FROM THE 191ST TANK BATTALION WERE ORDERED TO THE CROSS ROAD AT COORDINATES 781-550 AND FORMED A ROAD BLOCK TO PREVENT FURTHER ENEMY PENETRATIONS FROM THE WEST.

THE ENEMY REMAINED EXTREMELY ACTIVE DURING THE ENTIRE DAY, AND A MARKED INCREASE IN ENEMY ARTILLERY WAS NOTED ALL ALONG THE FRONT. OUR LINES HELD FIRM HOWEVER, AND GAINS WERE MADE IN SOME SECTORS. MANY PW'S WERE TAKEN DURING THE DAYS OPERATIONS, AND MUCH VALUABLE INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED THROUGH INTERROGATION.

IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CLOSER CONTACT WITH FRONT LINE UNITS, AND TO BETTER FACILITATE FUTURE OPERATIONS, THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER, LT COLONEL EDWIN M VAN BIBBER MOVED A FORWARD OP TO A CASTLE SITUATED ON THE HIGHEST TERRAIN IN BOTH THE 79TH AND THE 45TH DIVISION SECTOR. FROM THIS CASTLE, KNOWN AS LICHTENBERG CASTLE, THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER, WORKING WITH HIS STAFF, DIRECTED OPERATIONS. THE 32 REGIMENTAL CP AT ROTHBACH MAINTAINED CONTACT BY TELEPHONE AND RADIO WITH THE FORWARD OP, AND THE CONTINUOUS EXCHANGE OF VITAL INFORMATION WAS OF IMMENSE VALUE IN PLANNING FUTURE OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS DISCERNING THE MOVEMENTS OF THE ENEMY.

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4 JANUARY

AT 0100, 4 JANUARY, THE 1ST BATTALION 314TH MADE A SUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON SAEGRBUHL AND REESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH "A" AND "C" COMPANIES, 313TH INFANTRY. ALTHOUGH BOTH "A" AND "C" COMPANIES HAD BEEN CUT OFF FOR 2 DAYS THEY HAD SUFFERED NO MORE THAN NORMAL CASUALTIES PLUS A CONCERN OVER DWINDLING SUPPLIES AND AMMUNITION. COMPANIES "A" AND "C" HAD CAPTURED 20 PRISONERS DURING THE TWO DAY PERIOD, WHICH SWELLED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS FOR JANUARY 4TH TO 132. CONSIDERING THE NUMBER OF ENEMY KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN KILLED, IT WAS NOW VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT THE 2ND BATTALION, 953RD INFANTRY (ENEMY) WHICH HAD BEEN OPPOSING OUR 1ST BATTALION, 314TH AND THE 2ND BATTALION, 313TH, HAD BEEN DESTROYED. THE COST TO THE ENEMY WAS ALREADY PROVING ITSELF TO BE VERY HIGH, WITH LITTLE OR NO GROUND GAINED.

NOT MUCH CHANGE TOOK PLACE IN COMPANY POSITIONS DURING THE DAY EXCEPT FOR THE GAINS MADE IN THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH ATTACK. PATROLLING HOWEVER, PROVED INVALUABLE IN DETERMINING ENEMY POSITIONS AND SCATTERED STRONG POINTS TO THE FRONT AND RIGHT FLANK.

5 JANUARY

THE 3RD BATTALION, 274TH INFANTRY (PART OF TF HERRING^{EN!}) ORDERED UP 1 RIFLE COMPANY, 1 HEAVY WEAPONS COMPANY, 1 PLATOON OF CANNON COMPANY AND 1 PLATOON OF AT COMPANY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ROTHBACH AND ESTABLISHED ROAD BLOCKS ALONG THE MAIN ROAD TO THE NORTH LEADING FROM ROTHBACH. THE 1ST BATTALION 314TH IN CONTINUING IT'S ATTACK MET FAIRLY STRONG RESISTANCE FROM ENEMY DUG IN ON HIGH GROUND ON THE OBJECTIVE.

THE I&R PLATOON WAS ORDERED TO PROCEED TO 824-372 WHERE A NUMBER OF GERMANS WERE SEEN CROSSING THE ROAD AND MOVING TO THE SOUTHWEST. ALTHOUGH INFLECTING CASUALTIES ON THE ENEMY THE I&R PLATOON COULD NOT STOP THE MOVEMENT OF THE ENEMY ACROSS THE ROAD. BY THE TIME REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED, COMPRISING TANKS AND 2 PLATOONS OF "I" COMPANY, 274TH INFANTRY, APPROXIMATELY 300 GERMANS HAD CROSSED THE ROAD AND WERE SOMEWHERE IN THE AREA EAST OF PICARDIE AND LICHTENBERG. THESE REINFORCEMENTS IMMEDIATELY PLUGGED THE GAP THROUGH WHICH THE ENEMY HAD INFILTRATED, BUT THE THREAT FROM THE ENEMY ALREADY AT LARGE WAS SERIOUS INDEED. THE REGIMENTAL CP AT ROTHBACH WAS IN DANGER, AND THE FORWARD OP, ESTABLISHED AT LICHTENBERG CASTLE, WAS MOMENTARILY CUT OFF. ALL UNITS WERE IMMEDIATELY ALERTED REGARDING THIS ENEMY PENETRATION TO THE EAST OF LICHTENBERG HILL, AND PATROLS WERE CONSTANTLY SEARCHING FOR THE ENEMY. ENGINEERS, MEANTIME, IN ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR THE ROAD NORTHWEST OF ROTHBACH HAD 2 TANK DOZERS DESTROYED UPON RUNNING OVER AERIAL BOMBS BURIED IN THE ROAD.

THE 1ST BATTALION WAS UNABLE TO REACH IT'S OBJECTIVE BY NIGHTFALL AND BUTTONEED UP A FEW HUNDRED YARDS SHORT OF THE PLANNED OBJECTIVE.

THE 2ND BATTALION, 313TH INFANTRY, REPORTED ENEMY ACTIVITY IN FRONT OF THEIR POSITIONS AT 0445 HOURS. ENEMY WAS REPORTED DUG IN AT COORDINATES 795-385 ON THE HILL MASS. AT 1015 HOURS AN AIR OP REPORTED VEHICLES AND TROOP MOVEMENTS AT COORDINATES 8015-4020, 7980-3850 TO 7950-3880. FURTHER ENEMY MOVEMENT WAS ALSO REPORTED IN THE 85-86, 36-37 GRID SQUARE

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AT 1735 HOURS. PW INFORMATION DISCLOSED THE REGIMENTAL CP LOCATION OF THE 953RD VG REGIMENT, AND REPORTS OF MANY SS TROOPS ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH ROAD FROM FISCHERHOFF. A TOTAL OF 26 PW'S WERE TAKEN DURING THE DAY.

6 JANUARY

AT ABOUT 0140 HOURS THE I&R PLATOON CALLED FOR A HEAVY VOLUME OF FIRE ON ENEMY AT 372-823. DAYLIGHT REVEALED GOOD EFFECTS OF THIS FIRE. THE 94TH RECONNAISSANCE PATROLLED THE ROAD BETWEEN ROTHBACH AND LICHTENBERG AND MADE NO CONTACT DURING THE DAY. THE ENEMY THAT HAD MOVED ACROSS THE ROAD ON 5 JANUARY WERE KNOWN TO BE IN SOME STRENGTH IN THE GENERAL AREA AROUND PICARDIE AND SE OF THAT TOWN, BUT THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF OUR TROOPS PREVENTED THE USE OF ARTILLERY ON THEM. "A" AND "B" COMPANIES, 313TH INFANTRY, AND "F" AND "G" COMPANIES, 276TH INFANTRY, WERE ORDERED TO MOVE INTO THAT AREA TO CLEAN OUT THE ENEMY.

DUE TO ENEMY INFILTRATION, SNIPING AND HARRASSING FIRE ON CANNON COMPANY POSITIONS, CANNON COMPANY WAS COMPELLED TO WITHDRAW TO NEW FIRING AREAS NORTH OF INGWILLER. BEFORE THE MOVE COULD BE MADE, CANNON COMPANY PERSONNEL ENGAGED SMALL GROUPS OF ENEMY BY RIFLE FIRE IN ORDER TO PROTECT GUN POSITIONS.

MODERATE ACTIVITY TOOK PLACE ALONG THE REGIMENTAL FRONT DURING THE DAY. ENEMY WAS FOUND DUG IN AT 820-358 TO 820-355. A PATROL FOUND BOOBY TRAPS ALONG THE TRAIL LEADING NORTH FROM 820-328. A FEW ENEMY HAD INFILTRATED INTO PICARDIE. FURTHER REPORTS OF MORE ENEMY CROSSING THE ROTHBACH-REIPERTSWILLER ROAD 800 YARDS ABOVE I&R POSITIONS WERE REVEALED. LICHTENBERG CASTLE WHERE THE FORWARD REGIMENTAL OP WAS LOCATED RECEIVED TANK FIRE EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON AND QUITE ACCURATE HARRASSING ARTILLERY FIRE. THIS FIRE WAS VERY INNEFFECTIVE HOWEVER, AGAINST THE THICK WALLS OF THE CASTLE. 20 TELLER MINES WERE DISCOVERED ON THE ROAD AT 830-365. A TOTAL OF 129 PW'S WERE TAKEN BY THE 1ST BATTALION, 313TH, DURING THE DAY.

"F" COMPANY WAS ORDERED TO SEND PATROLS FROM WILDENGUTH TO SAEGRBUHL EVERY HOUR COMMENCING AT 2200 UNTIL 0800. PW INFORMATION DISCLOSED THAT AN ENEMY PATROL WAS TO CONTACT TROOPS AT 824-371 SHORTLY BEFORE DAYLIGHT. A TASK FORCE CONSISTING OF THE I&R PLATOON, A PLATOON OF MEDIUM TANKS, A PLATOON OF LIGHT TANKS, AND INFANTRY PLATOON FROM "L" COMPANY, 274TH, AND A MINE PLATOON WERE ORDERED TO MOVE OUT AT DAYLIGHT TO DESTROY AN ENEMY PATROL, AND TO REMOVE A MINE FIELD AT 830-365, AS WELL AS TO LAY MINES ON TRAIL LEADING SE FROM THE NORTHEAST.

7 JANUARY

THE PLAN FOR 7 JANUARY WAS TO TAKE OBJECTIVES #1 AND #5 AND TO BUTTON UP ON THOSE OBJECTIVES. THE 2ND BATTALION, 313TH, AS THE RESERVE BATTALION WAS TO BE PREPARED FOR ANY DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE EAST. AT 1105 OUR 1ST BATTALION WAS NEARING THEIR OBJECTIVE AND RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE. AT 1136 THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH, TIED IN PHYSICALLY WITH COMPANY "I", 180TH, ON THE LEFT. AT 1207 THE TASK FORCE (LED BY LT JOHNSON) MADE CONTACT WITH COMPANY "F", 276TH ON THE RIGHT AND LEARNED THAT THAT UNIT WAS ON HILL AT COORDINATES

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824-364 AND 830-360. STIFF FIGHTING CONTINUED FOR OBJECTIVES #1 AND #5. AT 1302 THE 1ST BATTALION 313TH WAS 300 YARDS FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL; "B" COMPANY ON THE LEFT, "C" COMPANY ON THE RIGHT. THE BATTALION WAS ORDERED TO OBTAIN THE OBJECTIVE, BUTTON UP, MAKE CONTACT AND GO ON TO OBJECTIVES #2 AND #6. PATROLS WERE ORDERED OUT TO THE NORTHEAST, EAST AND SOUTHEAST TO RECONNOITER THE SECTOR WHICH WAS TO INCLUDE THE ROADS ON THE RIGHT. LT JOHNSONS TASK FORCE WAS CALLED IN FROM THEIR MISSION AND WERE MOVED TO THE CASTLE AT LICHTENBERG FOR LOCAL SECURITY. THE 2ND BATTALION WAS MOVED TO HILL AT 821-366.

THE ENEMY CONTINUED TO STRONGLY RESIST OUR ATTACK ON THE HIGH GROUND DESIGNATED AS OUR OBJECTIVE. TWO BATTALIONS OF ENEMY INFANTRY WERE ESTIMATED AS OPPOSING OUR TWO BATTALIONS. HOWEVER, THE ENEMY HAD THE DECIDED ADVANTAGE OF BEING SECURELY DUG IN ON HIGH GROUND. THE 2ND BATTALION RECEIVED SOME HARRASSING ARTILLERY FIRE IN THE MORNING. LICHTENBERG AREA ALSO RECEIVED ARTILLERY AROUND 1245 HOURS. THE CLOSE OF THE DAY FOUND UNITS CLOSE TO THE OBJECTIVE IN CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY, AND STILL MEETING HARRASSING SMALL ARMS AND MORTAR FIRE.

8 JANUARY

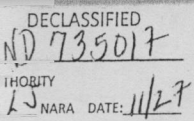
THE ATTACK WAS CONTINUED IN THE MORNING TO TAKE OBJECTIVES #1 AND #5 AND AGAIN INTENSE RESISTANCE WAS MET. CONTACT WAS STILL BEING MAINTAINED WITH THE 3RD BATTALION, 180TH, ON THE LEFT. REPORTS OF ENEMY AT A BRIDGE AT COORDINATES 824-371 NECESSITATED ORDERING A PLATOON FROM THE 2ND BATTALION TO CLEAN THEM OUT. A PLATOON OF "C" COMPANY, 314TH, WAS ASSIGNED THE MISSION OF PROTECTING THE SAEGRBUHL-REIPERTSWILLER ROAD. TWO REMAINING PLATOONS OF "C" COMPANY MOVED TO THE LEFT OF THEIR 314TH "A" AND "B" COMPANIES, TO FURTHER FACILITATE PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH 3RD BATTALION, 180TH, ON THE LEFT.

ENEMY ARTILLERY FELL ON ROTHBACH EARLY IN THE MORNING AND ALSO ON THE CASTLE AT LICHTENBERG. A PATROL FROM 2ND BATTALION WHICH HAD GONE TO COORDINATES 824-371 DREW SMALL ARMS AND BAZOOKA FIRE, BUT SUCCEEDED IN DISCLOSING POSITIONS OF AN ENEMY MINE FIELD. THE ENEMY CONTINUED TO DEFEND THE HILLS WHICH WERE OUR OBJECTIVES #1 AND #5 WITH WELL PLACED MACHINE GUNS AND DUG IN POSITIONS. PROGRESS WAS EXTREMELY SLOW, AND AT NO TIME COULD OUR TROOPS GET CLOSER THAN 300 YARDS FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL. DURING THE NIGHT, THE ENEMY INSTITUTED VIGOROUS PATROLLING ALONG THE ENTIRE FRONT. ONE PATROL (ENEMY) SUCCEEDED IN REACHING PICARDIE BUT WAS DRIVEN OFF. CONSIDERABLE ARTILLERY CONTINUED TO FALL IN THE BATTALION AREAS AND ON LICHTENBERG CASTLE HILL.

9, JANUARY

CONTINUED RESISTANCE, EVEN MORE SEVERE THAN THE PVIOUS DAY, WAS MET BY OUR BATTALIONS IN THE ATTACK ON OBJECTIVES #1 AND #5. HOWEVER, THROUGH UNDOUBTABLE INSTANCES OF HEROISM AND PLANNING AND MANEUVERABILITY BOTH BATTALIONS OBTAINED THEIR OBJECTIVES AND PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE ATTACK TO THE NORTH. DUE TO CONDITIONS ON THE LEFT AND RIGHT FLANKS, HOWEVER, IT BECAME IMPERATIVE THAT THE BATTALIONS BUTTON UP ON THE HILLS.

A NUMBER OF PW'S WERE TAKEN DURING THE DAY, PRINCIPALLY IN THE AREA OF OUR OBJECTIVE. IT WAS LEARNED DURING THE DAY THAT 2 BATTALIONS OF SS TROOPS WERE IN THE ZONE OPPOSITE THE 180TH INFANTRY. THE ENEMY ON OBJECTIVE #5 WERE DIGGING



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HOLES FOR EXPECTED REPLACEMENTS WHEN WE ATTACKED. FROM 1430 TO 1500 AN UNIDENTIFIED ARTILLERY LIAISON PLANE WAS OVER THE LICHTENBERG AREA. IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THIS PLANE WAS FLOWN BY AN ENEMY PILOT WHO WAS DIRECTING CONSIDERABLY ARTILLERY FIRE ON OUR POSITIONS. A CHECK WAS MADE THROUGH ARTILLERY UNITS AND IT WAS LEARNED THAT NO FRIENDLY PLANES WERE IN THE AIR AT THAT TIME.

A TOTAL OF 457 PRISONERS HAD BEEN TAKEN IN THE BRIEF PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO THIS DATE.

THE SECTOR WAS UNUSUALLY QUIET THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT 9-10 JANUARY.

10 JANUARY

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ATTACK OF THE 180TH FROM THE LEFT, THE 1ST BATTALION 314TH WAS TO TAKE OBJECTIVE #2 AND THE 1ST BATTALION 313TH TO TAKE OBJECTIVE #6. THE ATTACK JUMPED OFF AT 0900 FOLLOWING A HEAVY ARTILLERY CONCENTRATION. IMMEDIATE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY WAS MADE, AND BY 1000, THE ENTIRE FORWARD AREA WAS RECEIVING VERY HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE. THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH, WAS UNABLE TO MOVE FORWARD PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE THE 2ND BATTALION, 180TH, ON THE LEFT, COULD NOT ADVANCE TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE. "C" COMPANY, 314TH, HOWEVER, MANAGED TO ADVANCE SOME DISTANCE BUT WAS THEREAFTER PINNED DOWN IN SUCH A POSITION THAT THEY HAD TO WAIT UNTIL DARKNESS TO EFFECT A WITHDRAWAL. BY 1600 THE 2ND BATTALION, 313TH HAD GAINED THEIR OBJECTIVE AND THEREAFTER RESISTANCE DWINDLED IN THAT AREA. HOWEVER "E" COMPANY ON THE RIGHT WAS STILL RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM THE SOUTHEAST WHICH LATER BECAME SO INTENSE THAT COMPANY "E" WAS MOMENTARILY DISORGANIZED.

AT THE CLOSE OF THE DAY THE ENEMY CONTINUED TO RESIST WITH SMALL ARMS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS PARTICULARLY IN FRONT AND TO THE WEST OF COMPANY "C", 314TH, AND TO THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST OF OUR "E" COMPANY, 313TH. BOTH OF THESE COMPANIES WERE ON THE EXTREME FLANKS OF OUR REGIMENT.

HARRASSING ARTILLERY FELL IN THE BATTALION AREAS DURING THE ENTIRE DAY. AT 1550 HOURS AN AIR OP REPORTED A COLUMN OF TROOPS AND VEHICLES AT LEAST 600 YARDS LONG MOVING NORTH ON ROAD AT COORDINATES 8033-3097. ALL AVAILABLE ARTILLERY INCLUDING OUR CANNON COMPANY FIRED A HEAVY CONCENTRATION ON THIS ROAD. LATER UNCONFIRMED REPORTS WERE RECEIVED THAT 1 TANK, 1 SELF PROPELLED AND MANY TROOPS HAD SUFFERED CASUALTIES, AND THAT THE REMAINDER OF THE TROOPS HAD MOVED OFF THE ROAD INTO THE ADJACENT WOODS.

11 JANUARY

THE 180TH ON THE LEFT RECEIVED A STRONG COUNTER ATTACK AND TEMPORARILY LOST PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH OUR LEFT UNITS, AND WAS PUSHED BACK SOME DISTANCE. OUR "E" COMPANY BY 0730 HAD BEEN REORGANIZED AND HAD RECOVERED ALL BUT 8 OF ITS MEN. ORDERS WERE SENT DOWN FOR THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH TO STAY IN THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS AND SUPPORT BY FIRE THE ADVANCE OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 313TH.

PRESSURE WAS PUT ON THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH ON OUR LEFT FLANK WHEN THE 180TH REGIMENT RECEIVED A COUNTER ATTACK. AT 0945 HOURS OUR COMPANY "A" WAS ON OBJECTIVE "C" AND WAS IN A STIFF FIRE FIGHT WITH THE ENEMY WHO WAS DUG IN ON THE NORTH

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END OF THE OBJECTIVE HILL. TO ASSIST THE 1ST BATTALION OF THE 314TH, WHICH HAD LOST GROUND BY THE ENEMY ATTACK, THE 2ND BATTALION, 157TH INFANTRY WAS ORDERED INTO OUR ZONE AND DIRECTED TO ATTACK AT 2100 TO REGAIN THE GROUND LOST. IN THIS ATTACK THE 2ND BATTALION 157TH WENT THROUGH THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH AND REACHED THE 28 GRID LINE BY 2245 WITH LITTLE RESISTANCE.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ENEMY ACTION OF THE DAY ~~WAS~~ WERE THE STRONG COUNTER ATTACKS JUST AT DUSK. THE ATTACKS WERE ON OUR EXTREME FLANK COMPANIES. ONE ATTACK HIT OUR "E" AND "G" COMPANIES AND AFTER SUFFERING CASUALTIES ABOUT 20 OR 30 ENEMY HAD SLIPPED INTO THE VALLEY IN VICINITY OF COORDINATES 824-375. REPORTS FROM THE 180TH INDICATED THE ENEMY WERE WEARING U.S. UNIFORMS WHICH FACILITATED THEIR INFILTRATION INTO OUR LINES. THE PATROL OF 1ST BATTALION, 314TH, TO AREA AT COORDINATES 802-373, PATROLLED FROM 1ST BATTALION, 314TH TO AREA AT COORDINATES 802-373 TO 802-378, FOUND 2 STRETCHES OF ROAD BLOCKS EXTENDING 50 YARDS ALONG THE ROAD. THE PATROL ALSO FOUND 1 U.S. HALFTACK, A DESTROYED MARK V TANK AND 1 75 MM AT GUN.

12 JANUARY

AT 0705 THE 2ND BATTALION, 157TH, RECEIVED A COUNTER ATTACK ON THEIR "E" COMPANY AT COORDINATES 796-380. NEVERTHELESS, THE BATTALION WAS ORDERED TO CONTINUE THE ATTACK AT 0930. "F" COMPANY WAS ORDERED TO PROCEED NORTHEAST AND "G" COMPANY TO THE NORTHWEST, WITH COMPANY "E" AS BATTALION RESERVE. THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH, WAS ORDERED TO RELIEVE THE 2ND BATTALION 276TH, AFTER THE LATTER BATTALION HAD TAKEN HILL 388. HOWEVER, DUE TO AN ENEMY COUNTER ATTACK COMING FROM THE NORTHEAST THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE. THE 2ND BATTALION, 313TH, CONTINUED TO MEET ENEMY OPPOSITION TO THE FRONT AND RIGHT FLANKS. THE 180TH, ON THE LEFT, WAS UNABLE TO ADVANCE SO IMPROVEMENT OF PRESENT POSITIONS WAS INSTITUTED. THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH HAD MOVED UP TO POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY HELD.

WORD WAS RECEIVED AT 2030 OF A POSSIBLE REGROUPING OF FORCES AND OF A REUNION WITH THE 79TH DIVISION. A FEW ENEMY WERE FOUND TO BE DUG IN ON THE HILL EAST OF "G" COMPANY, 313TH. THE 2ND BATTALION CLEANED THEM OUT BEFORE DARK.

22 PW'S WERE TAKEN IN THE VICINITY OF COORDINATES 835-375. TEN OF THESE WERE TAKEN BY 2ND BN, 313TH; 12 BY THE 276TH REGIMENT. AT 1645 COMPANY "E" ALSO TOOK 7 PW'S AT THEIR ROAD BLOCK.

13 JANUARY

ELEMENTS OF THE 45TH RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON WENT INTO POSITION ON THE REIPERTSWILLER HILL BETWEEN 0200 AND 0300 HOURS. THE 1ST BATTALION, 314TH, WAS ATTACHED TO THE 180TH INFANTRY AT 0600 TO REMAIN IN PRESENT POSITION. A UNIT OF THE 180TH WAS ORDERED TO RELIEVE OUR COMPANY "A", 313TH, WHICH HAD BEEN THE CONTACT UNIT BETWEEN REGIMENTS. BECAUSE OF THESE CHANGES THE REGIMENTAL BOUNDARY BECAME THE ROAD LEADING NORTH OUT OF REIPERTSWILLER. THE 1ST BATTALION 315TH WAS ORDERED TO RELIEVE ELEMENTS OF THE 313TH ASSEMBLED VICINITY OF REIPERTSWILLER AND PICARDIE. COMPANY "A" 313TH WAS RELIEVED AT 1100 HOURS BY COMPANY "E", 180TH, THEREAFTER REVERTING TO

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9REGIMENTAL CONTROL.

ORDERS WERE RECEIVED THAT THE REGIMENT MOVE TO SURBOURG TO REJOIN THE 79TH DIVISION UPON COMPLETION OF RELIEF; ROUTE OF MOVEMENT TO BE ROTHBACH, PFOFFENHOFFEN, HAGUENAU, SURBOURG. ALTHOUGH RELIEF WAS COMPLETED ON THE NIGHT OF 13-14 JANUARY, TROOPS REMAINED IN THE REIPERTSWILLER-PICARDIE AREA.

THERE WAS VERY LITTLE ARTILLERY DURING THE DAYS PERIOD, AND LITTLE OR NO CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY WAS MADE; GREATLY FACILITATING THE PROCESS OF RELIEVING.

14 JANUARY

AT 0250 HOURS THE RELIEF OF OUR 1ST AND 2ND BATTALIONS WAS COMPLETED AND BY 0445 BOTH BATTALIONS HAD CLOSED INTO THEIR ASSIGNED ASSEMBLY AREAS VICINITY PICARDIE. THE REGIMENT WAS OFFICIALLY RELIEVED FROM 45TH DIVISION CONTROL AT 0655. THE MOVE FROM ROTHBACH TO HERMERSWILLER BEGAN AT 0900, THE NEW CP OPENING THERE AT 1345. THE BALANCE OF THE DAY WAS SPENT IN OBTAINING COMPLETE INFORMATION REGARDING THE SITUATION OF OUR 3RD BATTALION AND OTHER FRIENDLY TROOPS IN THE VICINITY. (FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE COMBAT ACTIVITIES OF THE 3RD BATTALION, 313TH INFANTRY, DURING THE PERIOD 1-31 JANUARY, SEE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT WHICH FOLLOWS)

CONSIDERABLE AIR ACTIVITY WAS IMMEDIATELY APPARENT UPON OUR ARRIVAL IN THE HERMERSWILLER AREA. AT 1525 OUR 3RD BATTALION RECEIVED AN ARTILLERY BARRAGE. VEHICULAR MOVEMENT WAS HEARD GOING NORTH TO ASHBACK AT 2130 HOURS. FURTHER ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE FELL ON THE 3RD BATTALION AREA DURING THE NIGHT, AND CONTINUED ENEMY VEHICULAR MOVEMENT WAS HEARD.

15 JANUARY

AS THE DAY BEGAN, THE 3RD BATTALION WAS OUTPOSTING IN THE VICINITY OF OBERROEDERN. THE 1ST AND 2ND BATTALIONS WERE IN THE VICINITY OF HERMERSWILLER, AWAITING FURTHER ORDERS. OUR AT GUNS, WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED IN POSITION DURING THE NIGHT, WERE DUG IN DURING THE MORNING HOURS. THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE 1ST BATTALION WAS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A ROAD RECONNAISSANCE OF THE ROUTE FROM HOFFEN-HERMERSWILLER-HOHWILLER-KUHLENDORF- AND TOWARD RITTERSHOFFEN; ALSO ROUTE HOHWILLER-REIMERSWILLER-SCHWABWILLER-OBERTSDORF-NIEDERBETSCHDORF AND TOWARD RITTERSHOFFEN. THE 2ND BATTALION WAS ALSO ORDERED TO MAKE ROAD RECONNAISSANCE TO POSSIBLE FRONT LINE POSITIONS WHERE WE MAY BE COMMITTED.

THE BATTALIONS WERE ALERTED FOR A POSSIBLE MOVEMENT IN THE AFTERNOON AS THE SITUATION AROUND HATTEN GREW WORSE. AT 1705, DIVISION ORDERED THAT OUR 2ND BATTALION MOVE TO NIEDERBETSCHDORF WHERE THEY WERE TO BE ATTACHED TO THE 315TH INFANTRY. THIS MOVE WAS COMPLETED BY 2015. CANNON COMPANIES LOCATION REMAINED AT 1300-3810. OUR 1ST BATTALION WAS RELIEVED OF IT'S ALERT ORDER WHEN THE SITUATION AROUND HATTEN IMPROVED.

CONSIDERABLE ENEMY ARTILLERY LANDED ALONG THE ENTIRE SECTOR OF THE FRONT, AND THE 3RD BATTALION WAS SHELLED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DAY. CONSIDERABLE VEHICULAR ACTIVITY AT VARIOUS TIMES THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND EVENING WAS NOTED.

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NO PARTICULAR ACTIVITY OF IMPORTANCE OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE DAYS PERIOD. THE 1ST BATTALION CONTINUED TO BE IN RESERVE IN THE VICINITY OF HOFFEN. THE 2ND BATTALION REMAINED UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE 315TH INFANTRY. THE 3RD BATTALION CONTINUED MANNING THE MAGINOT DEFENSES AND OUTPOSTING THE SECTOR WITH COMPANY "G", 222ND INFANTRY ATTACHED TO THEM.

FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT BOMBED ENEMY INSTALLATIONS NEAR THE TOWN OF TRIMBACH, AND THE DAYS PERIOD WAS OTHERWISE WITHOUT ESPECIAL INCIDENT.

AS THE DAYS PERIOD BEGAN THE 1ST BATTALION REMAINED IN RESERVE IN THE TOWN OF ~~XXXXXX~~ HOFFEN. THE 2ND BATTALION, DETACHED, REMAINED UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE 315TH INFANTRY. THE 3RD BATTALION MANNED THE MAGINOT DEFENSES BETWEEN APPROXIMATE COORDINATES 159-381 AND 181-354.

ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN ON 17 JANUARY. ONLY SPORADIC ARTILLERY FIRE WAS RECEIVED BY THE 3RD BATTALION IN HOFFEN DURING THE DAY. PW INFORMATION INDICATED THAT ENEMY LOSSES HAD BEEN EXTREMELY HEAVY, BUT THAT REPLACEMENTS WERE CONSTANTLY BEING BROUGHT UP.

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18 JANUARY

THE 1ST AND 2ND BATTALIONS REMAINED DETACHED, WHILE OUR 3RD BATTALION CONTINUED IN MANNING THE MAGNOT DEFENSES WITH COMPANY "G", 222ND INFANTRY ATTACHED. DURING THE MORNING HOURS GENERAL WAHL AND THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER DISCUSSED PLANS FOR IMPROVING POSITIONS ON OUR LEFT FLANK BETWEEN US AND THE 222ND INFANTRY. DURING THE MORNING HOURS A CONTACT PATROL DISCOVERED A 4 MAN ENEMY PATROL AND SHOT 3 OF THEM, XXXXXXXXINTXXWHEKXXENHXXEXITIXNEXXERE AT THAT POINT.

CONSIDERABLE ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS NOTED THROUGHOUT THE DAYS PERIOD. TANKS AND VEHICLES WERE OBSERVED IN THE VICINITY OF CONCENTRATION 1237, AND AT 0700 HOURS, 5 TANKS WERE SEEN GOING EAST OVER THE HILL FROM THAT POINT. MODERATELY HEAVY 155 MM ARTILLERY WAS REPORTED IN LEITERSWILLER BETWEEN 0715 AND 0815 HOURS. DIVISION G-2 RELEASED THE INFORMATION THAT A NEW SS OUTFIT HAD MOVED INTO OUR SECTOR WITHIN THE PAST

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SEVERAL DAYS. PW INFORMATION INDICATED THAT IN OUR IMMEDIATE SECTOR 3 ENEMY BATTALIONS WERE OPPOSING, EACH WITH APPROXIMATELY 600 MEN.

THE 3RD BATTALION DESTROYED AN ENEMY TANK VICINITY OF CONCENTRATION 1236 AND A HALFTACK AT CONCENTRATION 1226. AT 1625 HOURS, 31 ENEMY ROUNDS OF SMOKE LANDED AT COORDINATES 165-363, BUT NO DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWED. A 3RD BATTALION PATROL TO ASCHBACK ENTERED THE TOWN AND REPORTED NO ENEMY THERE.

NEBELWERFER FIRE WAS USED AGAINST OUR TROOPS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS WHEN 18 ROUNDS (3 VOLLEYS) LANDED ON A RIDGE NEAR LEITERSWILLER- HOFFEN ROAD AT DUSK. LATER, AT 2307, VEHICLES WERE REPORTED MOVING BOTH WAYS ON ROAD BETWEEN BUHL AND HATTEN.

19 JANUARY

THE DAYS PERIOD WAS PREDOMINANTLY QUIET. THE 1ST AND 2ND BATTALIONS REMAINED DETACHED, AND THE 3RD BATTALION CONTINUED TO MAN THE MAGINOT DEFENSES.

DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS CONSIDERABLE VEHICULAR TRAFFIC WAS ~~XXXXXX~~ AGAIN REPORTED ALONG THE ROADS BETWEEN ASCHBACH-STUNDWILLER-BUHL AND HATTEN. ARTILLERY DURING THE PERIOD LESSENED SOMEWHAT, BUT THE 3RD BATTALION IN LEITERSWILLER CONTINUED TO RECEIVE SPORADIC VOLLEYS.

THE 3RD BATTALION TOOK 7 PW'S DURING THE DAY, AND INTERROGATION INDICATED THAT THE ENEMY WAS NONE TO STRONGLY REINFORCED IN THE AREA TO OUR NORTH. PW'S STATED THAT THEY WERE IN CONSTANT FEAR OF A CONCENTRATED ATTACK ON OUR PART.

AT 2200 A PATROL FROM THE 3RD BATTALION PROCEEDED TO STUNDWILLER ROAD TO PLACE MINES AT THAT POINT. THERE WAS NO CHANGE DURING THE DAY IN THE DISPOSITION OF OUR 3RD BATTALION UNITS.

20 JANUARY

AT 1205 HOURS THE REGIMENT WAS ALERTED BY DIVISION FOR A RETROGRADE MOVEMENT TO THE VICINITY OF HAGUENAU. ORDERS WERE IMMEDIATELY ISSUED AND DURING THE COURSE OF THE AFTERNOON THE UNITS OF THE REGIMENT BEGAN MOVING TO PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED AREAS IN THE VICINITY OF HAGUENAU. AS SPECIFIED BY THE MOVEMENT ORDER, ALL BATTALIONS WERE AGAIN UNDER REGIMENTAL CONTROL, AND UPON ARRIVAL AT HAGUENAU, WOULD TAKE UP DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. COMPANY "G", 222ND INFANTRY, REMAINED WITH THE 3RD BATTALION DURING AND FOLLOWING THE MOVEMENT.

THE ENTIRE DAYS PERIOD, FOLLOWING THE RECEIPT OF THE MOVEMENT ORDER, WAS SPENT IN EXECUTING THE MOVE ITSELF. EXTREME PRECAUTION WAS TAKEN TO EXECUTE THE MOVE WITHOUT THE ENEMY RECEIVING PREMATURE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR PLANS. THE 1ST BATTALION PLANNED TO BLOW ALL BRIDGES BETWEEN SOUFLENHEIM AND HAGUENAU AS THE MOVE PROGRESSED. THE SPECIAL UNITS WERE THE FIRST TO MOVE, WITH THE BATTALIONS FOLLOWING THEREAFTER.

A NEW REGIMENTAL CP WAS OPENED IN HARTHAUSEN (995-211) AT 1810 HOURS. BY THE END OF THE DAY VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE SPECIAL UNITS WERE ~~XXXXXX~~ CLOSED IN AT THEIR NOE LOCATIONS, AND THE BATTALIONS WERE ON THE MOVE.

THERE WAS VERY LITTLE ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD. THE 3RD BATTALION REPORTED LIGHT ARTILLERY FIRE IN LEITERSWILLER BUT OTHERWISE THE ENEMY REMAINED QUIET.

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21 JANUARY

BY 0800 ALL UNITS HAD CLOSED INTO THEIR ASSIGNED POSITIONS AND AREAS VICINITY HAGUENAU. THE 2ND BATTALION HAD CLOSED IN ON A LINE ON THE LEFT OF HAGUENAU, EXTENDING TO SCHWEIGHAUSEN; THE 3RD BATTALION OCCUPYING DEFENSIVE POSITIONS SOUTH OF THE MODER RIVER IN HAGUENAU ITSELF. THE 1ST BATTALION WAS PLACED IN RESERVE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF HAGUENAU. NO ENEMY CONTACT WAS MADE DURING THE DAY. CIVILIAN REPORTS OF THE ENEMY SHELLING SOULTZ AND SURBOURG IN THE AFTERNOON INDICATED THAT THE ENEMY DID NOT KNOW THAT WE HAD PULLED BACK TO NEW DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

AT 1850 OP'S OF THE 314TH ON THE RIGHT HAD BEEN DRIVEN IN AND THE POSITIONS HELD BY THEM WERE OCCUPIED BY ENEMY INFANTRY. IT WAS BELIEVED THIS OPPOSITION CAME FROM THE EAST OR NORTHEAST INSTEAD OF THE NORTH. CIVILIANS EVACUATING FROM THE AREA OF HAGUENAU CREATED MINOR PROBLEMS OF ROAD CONGESTION AND OF IDENTIFICATION. ALL CIVILIANS NORTH OF THE RIVER IN HAGUENAU WERE ORDERED TO BE EVACUATED.

PHYSICAL CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED WITH UNITS ON THE LEFT AND RIGHT AND BY DUSK POSITIONS ON THE LINE WERE READY FOR THE DEFENSIVE.

22 JANUARY

AT 0200 K COMPANY AREA RECEIVED 9 ROUNDS OF TANK FIRE COMING FROM THE NORTHWEST. VEHICULAR ACTIVITY WAS HEARD NORTH AND NORTHWEST OF HAGUENAU AT A LATER HOUR IN THE EARLY MORNING.

PRIOR TO THIS, AT 0035, "I" COMPANY REPORTED TANK AND INFANTRY ACTIVITY ON BOTH OF THEIR FLANKS. CONTACT WAS MADE WITH A LARGE ENEMY PATROL NECESSITATING THE OP TO PULL BACK. NOW THAT DEFENSIVE ENEMY CONTACT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED ACTIVITY NORTH OF THE OUTPOSTS WAS THEREAFTER CONSIDERED TO BE ENEMY. CONFLICTING REPORTS AS TO WHETHER ALL FRIENDLY UNITS HAD PASSED SOUTH OF THE RIVER AT HAGUENAU HAD CREATED UNCERTAINTIES. IT WAS NOT FULLY KNOWN WHETHER THE ACTIVITY NOTED NORTH OF HAGUENAU WAS FRIENDLY OR ENEMY.

AT 1325 A 20 MAN ENEMY PATROL WAS OBSERVED BY 3RD BATTALION GOING TO THE NORTHEAST OF HAGUENAU. THE 242ND ON THE RIGHT WAS CONTACTED AND THEY REPORTED COMBAT PATROLS HAD BEEN SENT OUT TO FIND THE ENEMY PATROLS.

EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON THE 3RD BATTALION HAD PULLED IN THEIR OUTPOSTS NORTH OF THE RIVER TO FACILITATE REGISTERING OF ARTILLERY. DURING REGISTRATION ENEMY INFANTRY INFILTRATED PAST OUTPOSTS AND INTO THE CITY OF HAGUENAU NORTH OF THE BRIDGE. ENEMY TANKS WERE ALSO REPORTED IN THE AREA AND AT 1600 ONE OF OUR TD'S WAS KNOCKED OUT AND SET AFIRE BY AN ENEMY TANK. THE "ENEMY" TANK WAS NO LESS THAN AN AMERICAN SHERMAN TANK, MANNED BY A GERMAN CREW.

AT 1624 ALL BRIDGES CROSSING THE MODER RIVER HAD BEEN BLOWN TO FURTHER PROTECT OUR DEFENSIVE PLANS. AT 1725 A SECOND TD WAS KNOCKED OUT BY ENEMY TANKS. ENEMY ACTIVITY INCREASED DURING THE EVENING TO INCLUDE VEHICLES AND PATROLS HEARD AND SEEN NORTH AND NORTHWEST OF HAGUENAU. SOME ARTILLERY FELL IN HAGUENAU IN THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY WAS ACTIVE FIRING TARGETS IN HUNDSHOT AND ON THE EDGE OF THE WOODS ABOVE HAGUENAU.

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NUMEROUS ENEMY PATROLS WERE ENGAGED EARLY ON THE MORNING OF THE 23RD BY BOTH FORWARD BATTALIONS. THE 2ND AND 3RD BATTALIONS CONTINUED TO MAN THEIR DEFENSIVE POSITIONS IN HAGUENAU AND ALONG THE RIVER. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE 2ND BATTALION OUTPOSTS WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE 3RD BATTALION HAD ALREADY PULLED THEIR OUTPOSTS BACK. ONE COMPANY OF THE 1ST BATTALION, COMPANY "C", WAS ATTACHED TO THE 3RD BATTALION FOR THE DEFENSE OF HAGUENAU, AND WAS PLACED ON THE RIGHT FLANK OF THE 3RD BATTALION.

AN OVERLAY WAS RECEIVED FROM DIVISION SHOWING ALTERNATE DEFENSE POSITIONS TO THE REAR IN CASE OF FURTHER WITHDRAWAL. REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH BATTALION MADE A RECONNAISSANCE OF THESE POSITIONS.

A PLATOON OF LIGHT TANKS WAS RECEIVED BY THE 3RD BATTALION TO REINFORCE THEIR DEFENSIVE FIRES, PLACED AT STRATEGIC POINTS IN THE CITY TO FIRE DOWN ENEMY AVENUES OF APPROACH. CONSIDERABLE ENEMY ACTIVITY TO THE NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF HAGUENAU WAS REPORTED DURING THE DAY BUT THERE WERE NO CONCERTED ATTACKS. ENEMY TROOPS MOVING ALONG THE RAILROAD AT COORDINATES 034-284 WERE DISPERSED BY ARTILLERY FIRE. AT 0145 HOURS A 50 MAN ENEMY PATROL ATTACKED OUR 3RD BATTALIONS RIGHT OUTPOST AT COORDINATES 0300-2485. THE 1ST BATTALION WAS INSTRUCTED TO BE ON THE ALERT FOR POSSIBLE COUNTER ATTACKS.

THE ENEMY CONTINUED TO BUILD UP DURING THE DAY NORTH OF HAGUENAU. BOTH THE 2ND AND 3RD BATTALIONS REPORTED SEEING FREQUENT ENEMY GROUPS AND TANKS TO THE FRONT. INDICATIONS OF A POSSIBLE ENEMY ATTACK AGAINST 3RD BATTALION POSITIONS APPEARED IMMINENT. COMPANY "C" WAS ATTACHED TO THE 3RD BATTALION FOR THE DEFENSE OF HAGUENAU AS WERE THE HEAVY WEAPONS OF THE 1ST BATTALION. ENEMY AIRCRAFT APPEARED OVER THE SECTOR AT INTERVALS AND WERE TAKEN UNDER FIRE. THE VILLEGE OF WEITBRUCH WAS BOMBED BY ENEMY PLANES. KALTENHOUSE ALSO RECEIVED BOMBINGS. CONSIDERABLE ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS NOTED VICINITY HUNSDCHOF. 20 MM ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE WAS OBSERVED TO THE FRONT OF 2ND BATTALION. CONSIDERABLE FLARE ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED FOLLOWED BY 2ND BATTALION FRONT LINES RECEIVING MACHINE GUN FIRE. A GROUP OF FFI MEN RIDING IN A BUS CAME NORTH THROUGH HAGUENAU AND TURNED IN FRONT OF "K" COMPANY POSITIONS. NOT KNOWING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE APPROACHING VEHICLE, THEY WERE FIRED ON BY K COMPANY AND ALSO BY THE ENEMY, SUFFERING ONE CASUALTY. INFORMATION LATER RECEIVED VERIFIED THEM AS FFI MEN FIGHTING WITH THE 2ND FRENCH ARMY, WHO HAD NOT BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH THE SITUATION IN HAGUENAU.

24 JANUARY

THE MORNING OF 24 JANUARY WAS QUIET. SOME ENEMY MOVEMENT WAS HEARD TO THE FRONT, WITH "C" COMPANY REPORTING ENEMY TROOPS DIGGING IN AT COORDINATES 0525-2410; "K" COMPANY REPORTED SOUNDS OF VEHICLES MOVING NORTHWEST FROM HAGUENAU. AT 0635 "E" COMPANY REQUESTED ARTILLERY FIRE AT 0230-3470 AND REPORTED ENEMY ACTIVITY AROUND HOUSES IN THAT VICINITY. INSTRUCTIONS WERE GIVEN TO THE BATTALIONS TO NAIL AND WIRE UP

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ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS IN THE VICINITY OF THE RIVER TO DENY ENEMY THEIR USE IN CASE OF PENETRATION. LOCAL SECURITY PLANS WERE INSTITUTED FOR THE PROTECTION OF BATZENDORF, NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM AND HARTHAUSEN. THE 3RD BATTALION HAD THEIR SNIPERS BUSILY ENGAGED ALONG THE RIVER FRONT DURING THE DAY. QUITE ACCURATE FIRING WAS OBSERVED, WITH 9 ENEMY KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN KILLED. THE UNIT ON OUR LEFT FLANK RECEIVED A STRONG PATROL ATTACK AT DUSK. "F" COMPANY WAS PLACED ON THE LEFT FLANK OF THE 2ND BATTALION TO INSURE CONTACT AND BETTER DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

25 JANUARY

THE 2ND AND 3RD BATTALIONS CONTINUED TO MAN THEIR DEFENSIVE POSITIONS IN THE HAGUENAU AREA ALONG THE MODER RIVER. THE 1ST BATTALION WAS ALERTED FOR POSSIBLE MOVEMENT TO COUNTER ENEMY THRUSTS IN SCHWEIGHAUSEN. THE I&R PLATOON WAS ORDERED TO THE LEFT FLANK OF THE 2ND BATTALION TO GUARANTEE CONTACT WITH THE UNIT ON THE LEFT. THE 222ND INFANTRY ON THE LEFT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHER UNITS SUCCEEDED IN CLEARING ENEMY FROM THE OHLUNGEN WOODS AND FROM SCHWEIGHAUSEN. THESE ENEMY HAD PENETRATED OUR POSITIONS THE NIGHT BEFORE.

ATTACHED TO US FOR A FOUR DAY PERIOD WAS A SEARCHLIGHT UNIT. BEGINNING AT 2230 THE LIGHTS WERE TURNED ON TO ASSIST IN SPOTTING ENEMY ATTEMPTING TO INFILTRATE OUR LINES. VISIBILITY WAS EXTREMELY POOR, WITH MUCH FOG AND DARKNESS, AND THE LIGHTS AIDED CONSIDERABLY IN KEEPING DOWN ENEMY ATTEMPTS TO INFILTRATE WITH PATROLS. THE LIGHTS WERE DEFINATELY OF CONSIDERABLE HELP, BUT WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE NOT ALWAYS FAVORABLE DUE TO THE HEAVY FOG. NO ENEMY REACTION TO THE USE OF THE LIGHTS WAS NOTED.

26 JANUARY

THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE POSITION OF OUR TROOPS ON THE DEFENSIVE, AND LITTLE ACTION WAS REPORTED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DAY. NOT MUCH ARTILLERY WAS EXCHANGED BY EITHER SIDE DUE TO ZERO VISIBILITY. ONLY CLOSE IN TARGETS WERE FIRED UPON. THERE WERE NUMEROUS INSTANCES OF ENEMY GROUPS BEING OBSERVED WERE NOTED AT HUNDSCHOF, METZGER AND THE EDGE OF THE WOODS NORTH OF HAGUENAU, BUT NO ACTION WAS REPORTED. NO OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST OCCURRED ON THIS DATE.

27 JANUARY

THE REGIMENT CONTINUED TO DEFEND ALONG THE MODER RIVER, WITH THE 2ND BATTALION ON THE LEFT; 3RD BATTALION ON THE RIGHT, AND THE 1ST BATTALION IN RESERVE. THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN OUR POSITIONS, AND A VERY QUIET DAY WAS REPORTED ALL ALONG THE FRONT. WORD WAS RECEIVED THAT COMPANY "C", 813TH TD'S WAS TO REPLACE COMPANY "A", 813 TD'S SOMETIME DURING THE DAY. THE ORDER FOR THIS CHANGE WAS CARRIED OUT, AND BY 2235 HOURS THE RELIEF HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED TO THE FRONT OF OUR UNITS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND DURING THE DAY, BUT NO CONCERTED ATTEMPTS WERE MADE BY EITHER SIDE TO MAKE CONTACT. A 4 MAN ENEMY PATROL HOWEVER, WAS COMPLETELY WIPED OUT BY S/A FIRE WHEN IT WAS SIGHTED AT COORDINATES 051-244. ALL ENEMY SIGHTED WERE FIRED ON BY OUR ARTILLERY WHENEVER POSSIBLE.